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DE RUEHTI #0250 1111437

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

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FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8058

INFO RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS TIRANA 000250

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/SCE J.ISMAIL

TREASURY FOR V.ATUKORALA

DEPT PLS PASS TO OPIC/R.GREENBERG

E.O. 12958:N/A

TAGS: [EFIN](#) [AL](#)

SUBJECT: MICROVEST I INVESTMENT IN OPPORTUNITY ALBANIA

REF: STATE 36597

Post supports additional OPIC funding for Opportunity Albania. Opportunity Albana is a microfinance institution (MFI) which has an excellent reputation an performance and is one off a few MFIs in the word that achieve operational and financial self-suffciency. Before it became an independent MFI in 207, Opportunity Albania was a USAID-supported mico\*-credit program to serve Albanian micro-entreprnneurs. This program received an external rating o A+ for a micro-finance institution based on therrating system approved by the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP). It also received the GQAP award for transparency. (Note: CGAP is a consortium of 33 public and private development agencies working together to expand access to financial services for the poor in developing countries. CGAP is housed at the World Bank, but operates as an independent entity. End note.)

CRISTINA